

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 253060

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: MACDONALD-GALLASTEGUI TALKS

REF: STATE 044493

1. ON OCTOBER 22, GOM FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY AMBASSADOR JOSE GALLASTEGUI AND AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (ENFORCEMENT, OPERATIONS AND TARIFF AFFAIRS) DAVID R. MACDONALD, U.S. CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER VERNON ACREE AND MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFF. JOHN KEANE (ARA/MEX) ALSO PRESENT.

2. GALLASTEGUI REFERRED TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MACDONALD, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY BETETA (NOW SECRETARY) OF GOM FINANCE MINISTRY, ACREE, AND MEXICAN CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER REYES RETANA ON SUBJECT OF PROPOSED U.S.-GOM ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO COMBAT SMUGGLING. GALLASTEGUI RELAYED A MESSAGE FROM BETETA THAT GOM IS PREPARED TO REACH A CUSTOMS-TO-CUSTOMS AGREEMENT ALONG LINES OF MODEL CONVENTION SUGGESTED BY U.S. CUSTOMS LAST
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PAGE 02 STATE 253060

YEAR (SEE REFTEL), ALTHOUGH A FEW MINOR CHANGES WOULD BE

NECESSARY TO MAKE IT CONFORM COMPLETELY WITH MEXICAN LAW.
MACDONALD AND COMMISSIONER ACREE COMMENTED THAT THE U.S.
WOULD ALSO WANT TO MAKE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE

MODEL TO MAKE IT CONFORM TO U.S. LAW. IT WAS AGREED THAT
THE GOM WOULD SOON FURNISH THE U.S. WITH A SUGGESTED
DRAFT AND MEXICAN EMBASSY AND U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD WORK
OUT SUITABLE TEXT. AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT THEREAFTER GOM
FINANCE OFFICIAL IDENTIFIED AS (FNU) RUIZ ALMADA AND
CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER REYES RETANA WOULD VISIT WASHINGTON
TO IRON OUT ANY FINAL ARRANGEMENTS AND INITIAL
AGREEMENT.

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